

rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as set forth in the Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant thanks the examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 1, 7, and 13 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 2, 3, 8-12, 14, and 16-19 have been amended. More particularly, claims 16, 18, and 19 were rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims and were amended in the manner suggested by the examiner on page 3 of the Office Action in order to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection, as the Office Action notes would be allowable.

In addition, claims 2 and 8 have been amended on line 3 to change “and” to --an-- and to changed their dependencies to claim 16 and claim 18, respectively. Claim 3 was amended to change its dependency to claim 16, claims 9-12 were amended to change their dependencies to claim 18, and claim 14 was amended to change its dependency to claim 19.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 3, 8-12, 14, and 16-19 do not add new matter. Applicant also respectfully submits that claims 2-6 are either directly or indirectly dependent upon amended claim 16 so that arguments serving to patentably distinguish amended claim 16 from the prior art of record are available, among others, to patentably distinguish claims 2-6. Applicant also respectfully submits that claims 8-12 are all directly dependent upon amended claim 18 so that arguments serving to patentably distinguish amended claim 18 from the prior art of record are available, among others, to patentably distinguish claims 8-12. Applicant also respectfully submits that claims 14 and 15 are either directly or indirectly dependent upon amended claim 19 so that arguments serving to patentably distinguish amended claim 19 from the prior art of record are available, among

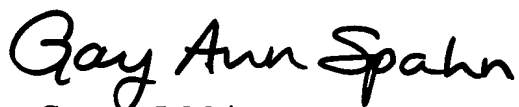
others, to patentably distinguish claims 14 and 15. Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, withdrawal of all of the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on any combination of *Tessler*, *the Abstract of JP '806*, and *Kirshbaum*, and allowance of claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-19.

New claim 20 has been added to claim the invention in varying scope. New claim 20 recites that only a single stone is fitted into the second ditch portion. Applicant respectfully submits that new claim 20 does not add new matter. Applicant also respectfully submits new claim 20 is directly dependent upon amended claim 19 so that arguments serving to patentably distinguish amended claim 19 from the prior art of record are available, among others, to patentably distinguish new claim 20. Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of new claim 20.

In view of the present amendment, claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-20 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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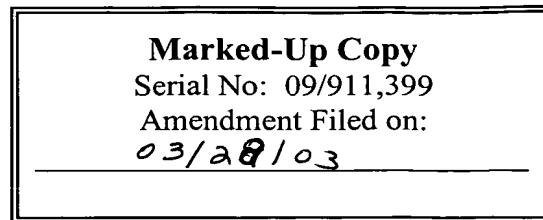


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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1, 7, and 13, without prejudice or disclaimer, amend claims 2, 3, 8-12, 14, and 16-19, and add new claim 20, as follows:

2. (Twice Amended) The ring according to claim [1] 16, further comprising:

a first central axis which connects a center of a bottom surface of said first ditch portion and a center of curvature of both [and] an outer surface of said ring and an inner surface of said ring;

a second central axis which connects a center of a bottom surface of said second ditch portion and said center of curvature of both said outer and inner surfaces of said ring, wherein said first central axis is separated from said second central axis by an angle of approximately 180 degrees in order for said first ditch portion and said second ditch portion to be arranged so that when said ring is put on any finger of a hand of a wearer of said ring except a thumb and a little finger thereof in such a manner that said outer surface of said first stone is on a back of said hand of said wearer of said ring, said outer surface of said second stone is on a palm side of said hand of said wearer of said ring and not seen from said back of said hand of said wearer of said ring, and that when said ring is put on said any finger of said hand of said wearer of said ring except said thumb and said little finger thereof in such a manner that said outer surface of said second stone is on said back of said hand of said wearer of said ring, said outer surface of said first stone is on said palm side and not seen from said back of said hand of said wearer of said ring.

3. (Amended) The ring according to claim [1] 16, wherein said first stone is a diamond.

8. (Twice Amended) The ring according to claim [7] 18, further comprising:

a first central axis which connects a center of a bottom surface of said first ditch portion and a center of curvature of both [and] an outer surface of said ring and an inner surface of said ring;

a second central axis which connects a center of a bottom surface of said plurality of second ditch portions and said center of curvature of both said outer and inner surfaces of said ring, wherein said first central axis is separated from said second central axis by an angle of approximately 180 degrees in order for said first ditch portion and said plurality of second ditch portions to be arranged so that when said ring is put on any finger of a hand of a wearer of said ring except a thumb and a little finger thereof in such a manner that said outer surface of said stone is on a back of said hand of said wearer of said ring, said initials are on a palm side and not seen from said back of said hand of said wearer of said ring, and that when said ring is put on any of finger of a hand of a wearer of said ring except said thumb and said little finger thereof in such a manner that said initials are on said back of said hand of said wearer of said ring, said outer surface of said stone is on said palm side and not seen from said back of said hand of said wearer of said ring.

9. (Amended) The ring according to claim [7] 18, wherein said stone is a diamond.

10. (Amended) The ring according to claim [7] 18, wherein said stone is a sapphire.

11. (Amended) The ring according to claim [7] 18, wherein said stone is a ruby.

12. (Amended) The ring according to claim [7] 18, wherein said stone is an emerald.

14. (Amended) The ring according to claim [13] 19, wherein

an exposed outer surface of at least one of said first stone and said second stone does not jut from the corresponding ditch portion of said first ditch portion and said second ditch portion.

16. (Amended) [The] A ring [according to claim 1,] comprising:

a band consisting essentially of a first portion, a second portion facing said first portion, and a third portion and a fourth portion each being between said first portion and said second portion, said first portion having a first ditch portion formed from an outer surface thereof toward an inside thereof, said second portion having a second ditch portion formed from the outer surface thereof toward an inside thereof, said first ditch portion and said second ditch portion facing each other;

a first stone fitted into said first ditch portion; and

a second stone which differs in material from said first stone and is fitted into said second ditch portion, wherein

an exposed outer surface of said first stone does not jut from said first ditch portion,

an exposed outer surface of said second stone does not jut from said second ditch portion,

said third portion and said fourth portion do not have any ditch portion and any stone arranged therein, and

[wherein] only a single stone is fitted into said first ditch portion[is only said first stone].

17. (Amended) The ring according to claim 16, wherein only a single stone is fitted into said second ditch portion[is only said second stone].

18. (Amended) [The] A ring [according to claim 7,] comprising:

a band consisting essentially of a first portion, a second portion facing said first portion, and a third portion and a fourth portion each being between said first portion and said second portion, said first portion having a first ditch portion formed from an outer surface thereof toward an inside thereof, said second portion having a plurality of second ditch portions formed from the outer surface thereof toward an inside thereof and arranged separately from each other along said outer surface of said second portion; and

a stone fitted into said first ditch portion, wherein
an exposed outer surface of said stone does not jut from said first ditch portion,
said plurality of second ditch portions form a person's initials recognized when seen from
above,

said third portion and said fourth portion do not have any ditch portion and any stone
arranged therein, and

[wherein said] only a single stone is [one and only gem] fitted into said first ditch
portion.

19. (Amended) [The] A ring [according to claim 13,] comprising:

a band comprising a first portion, a second portion facing said first portion, and a third
portion and a fourth portion each being between said first portion and said second portion, said
band having a first ditch portion formed from an outer surface of said first portion toward an
inside of said first portion, and a second ditch portion formed from an outer surface of said
second portion toward an inside of said second portion, said second ditch portion facing said first
ditch portion;

a first stone fitted into said first ditch portion; and

a second stone which differs in material from said first stone and is fitted into said second
ditch portion, wherein

said third portion and said fourth portion do not have any ditch portion and any stone
arranged therein, and

[wherein] only a single stone is fitted into said first ditch portion[is only said first stone
and a stone fitted into said second ditch portion is only said second stone].

20. (New).